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A PROSPEROUS YEAR.

The feeling of confidence that pervades everywhere in Kansas revives the hopes that were blasted by the drought. The busy industry that began in the spring of 1879, is about to be revived the coming spring. Evidences of coming prosperity are shown in that spirit of confidence which is becoming a growing sentiment. In Dodge City there is a general expression on the bright prospects of the year. Our exchanges refer to the probable large wheat yield and the favorable condition of the ground for spring crops. These favorable conditions extend over this region of country, and many settlers, no more distrustful of failures, but inspired with new hopes, will take advantage of the season and endeavor to regain losses in past years.

Ford county will progress under the promising year; and our towns stimulated under the impetus, will advance in wealth and population. The cattle and sheep business will continue to grow, and thus afford increased business. An early grass will insure an abundance on the range and guarantee a favorable location for additional sheep and cattle ranches. A diversified industry is what will insure permanency, and gives us means always at command. There will be a market for our produce in Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona; and these who do not despise small things, will endeavor to meet these demands. Butter, eggs and chickens will find a ready market at good prices. Hay, corn and fodder will be profitable crops. There will be much to engage the attention of the industrious and prudent and diligent men and women, who have had difficulties heretofore in the problem of sustaining life.

Willing hearts and hands, under the favorable conditions, will do much to insure hope and insure success. The opportunities look splendid, and under these encouragements we shall enjoy peace and plenty. We do not believe any one is without confidence. Those who remain have the courage and pluck to try again, with a better understanding of the methods to be employed for success in cultivation of the ground. Stock raising and farming will add much to the wealth and prosperity of the country, and the field is open for all who wish to engage therein.

ON TO MEMPHIS.

As the proposed railroad through the Indian Territory will be of some advantage to Dodge City, by connection at this point, we give the following from the Washington correspondence of the Atchison Champion.

A very important bill to the interests of Kansas passed the House Monday under a suspension of the rules, by a vote of 121 to 34, without the yeas and nays. It is a bill to incorporate the Cherokee and Arkansas River Railroad Company, and to grant the right of way through the Indian Territory, from Arkansas City, Kansas, to Fort Smith, following the general line of the Arkansas river. The right of way granted is 200 feet in width, with the necessary land for depots, shops, switches, etc. The bill is drawn in harmony with existing treaties with the Indian tribes, and the project is one which meets with entire favor on the part of the Indians. Where the line runs through lands owned by individuals or by Indians in their tribal capacity, the necessary right of way may be procured by the usual process of judicial condemnation. The enterprise is that of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe road, as these well known names of the corporation attest: Thomas Nickerson, T. Jefferson Coolidge, B. P. Cheney, Alden Spear, Isaac T. Burr, Charles W. Pierce, F. H. Peabody, and others of Massachusetts; W. B. Strong, E. Wilder, Geo. T. Anthony, William P. Hackney, John M. Steel, E. H. Funston,

Alenerin Gillet, and others, of Kansas. A number of citizens of Arkansas and Tennessee are also included among the incorporators. The capital stock is not to exceed \$4,300,000 and the bill provides that the work shall be commenced within six months of the passage of the act, and be completed within two years. The object of the Santa Fe people is, of course, to acquire a through line directly connecting the rich grain fields of Kansas and their vast system of railways that will soon extend to the Pacific coast to the City of Mexico, with the Mississippi river at Memphis. And there can be little doubt in the minds of those who appreciate the foresight, the pluck and the energy of the Santa Fe people, that the day is not far distant when, by means of alliances, or by process of absorption, they will control a line from the southern border of Kansas to the Atlantic coast at some point in Georgia.

At this stage of the session it would be hazardous to predict the passage of the bill by the Senate, but the action of the House has certainly given it such impetus that its final success cannot be long postponed.

For the credit of this achievement no man can hope to compete with the Hon. Thomas Ryan, of our State. As it was a matter of deep interest to a large portion of his constituents, he took hold of it with the earnest vigor which distinguishes all his work.

CONDITION OF LIVE STOCK.

Stock south of the Arkansas river fared better than in the regions farther north. The losses in this section are mostly of cattle drifted from the north.

The condition of stock in eastern Colorado is fair. We glean the following items from the West Las Animas Leader:

Jack Gilworth, who is at Hopkins and Elingham's camp at the forks of Two Butte, 28 miles south of Granada, says he has been riding all winter in that vicinity and has not seen over eight dead cattle. There are not many cattle near camp, but considerable number on Bear creek. Cattle seen were doing first rate. A beef steer killed the other day in camp was as fat as any killed last summer. While cattle seem to be doing well, a singular fatality has fallen upon the horses. Twenty head have died, and all but three of them were victims of what Jack calls the "winding disease." It is supposed to be caused by eating sage brush. It first appeared after the snow in November. The horses attacked stagger and turn around—always to the right—and fall down. They finally lose the use of their hinder parts and die in from a week to ten days. Several horses were saved by being put up and fed with hay. The snow has been on the ground in that region continuously since November.

The losses in sheep continue. A citizen of Rocky Ford estimates the losses of a few men in the camps north as follows: Sessler, 500; Beugnot, 5,000 out of a flock of 13,000; Cornell, 300; and a like per cent by Brynaldson Bros. and Thomson & Beggs. From Granada comes the news that Mr. Bass has already lost 1,600 head, with prospects of still further losses.

Luke Cahill was out on Adobe creek (north side of river) and the cattle he saw there looked well. The cattle were working back from the river and were enjoying the best of grass. He thinks the loss on the north side will not exceed ten per cent. Through cattle are suffering most.

It is estimated that there are 50,000 head of cattle on the north side of the Arkansas between Rocky Ford and the Kansas line. Some put the figures at 100,000.

Instructions have been received from the secretary of the Colorado Cattle Growers' Association to prosecute any one found skinning northern cattle.

The late storm drove large bodies of cattle westward into Pueblo county along the Arkansas river.

HEAVY LOSSES IN NEBRASKA.

An Omaha correspondent writes: The western part of Nebraska, as is known, forms a part of the vast stock region comprising parts of Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado and Western Kansas as well. The comfortable fortunes amassed on these plains by many stock growers have covered all the ridges with cattle and dotted the various valleys with ranches, until now the annual round-up shows the interest to be one of the most important in the west. In Nebraska the ranges are principally confined to the Elkhorn, the Niobrara, the Middle, North and South Loup, the North and South Platte, the Republican and tributaries. These streams with their branches cover all that portion of Nebraska west and northwest of a line drawn from the mouth of the Niobrara River on the north to the junction of the Sappa with the Republican on the south—a vast acreage of land as yet unutilized and covered with the famous nutritious grasses of the plains on which cattle subsist the year round. It is estimated that 250,000 head of cattle have been pastured in the region described in the past year.

Owing to the fact that the grass of the prairie, which cures on the ground, affords food in the winter, cattle men have hitherto made no preparations for feeding hay or straw to their animals, and as no grower expected so severe a season, the losses can not but prove very serious. From one to two feet of snow on the level covers all the ranges of the state, and though the winds have been strong the snow is packed so solid that they cannot clear the uplands, which in ordinary seasons are bare and the grass on them accessible to cattle. For six weeks the surface of the prairie has been covered, though not so deeply until three weeks ago, when the heaviest snow known to the oldest inhabitant fell.

On the Upper Loup ranchmen have been unable to leave their ranches several days at a time, and the cattle have kept close to the streams, browsing where they could find willows. Each day they became weaker. Thousands have dropped in their tracks, and the intense cold has finished the work of starvation. The same is true of the Niobrara and Elkhorn regions, reaching to Red Cloud Agency. The Agent of the Sioux Indians writes that hundreds of cattle in that vicinity have already died and that there is no possibility of preventing the death of thousands more.

Alongside of the various railways passengers can see dozens of carcasses. In places the poor brutes have congregated on the track and have been too weak to get out of the way of trains.

A Plumb Creek merchant, in Omaha a day or two since, says the loss to cattle men making his town headquarters will amount to bankruptcy to nearly all the small owners and will very much distress the large growers. J. P. Olive, somewhat famous in Nebraska's criminal history, believes he has lost 7,000 head of his herd, numbering 20,000 cattle. Plum Creek is headquarters for perhaps 300 stock growers of small means, and to this number, excepting half a dozen, the disastrous winter means positive destitution for a year at least. Cattle men verily estimate the losses in the entire stock region at from 10 per cent to 90 per cent. As nearly as can be guessed, about half the cattle on the prairies are either dead now or too far gone to be saved. The danger does not end with the return of spring. In fact, Mr. Barton, who has suffered less than any other grower, says that he will sustain heavier losses when grass comes than now, because the new grass occasions a dysentery, and many of his cattle are too emaciated to endure its effects.

Kinsley suffers a severe loss in the washing away of eleven spans of the Arkansas river bridge, at that point.

The Kansas Legislature will adjourn on March 4th.

But few losses of cattle on the range south of the Arkansas river.

Peach buds are reported killed from all sections in northern Kansas, but the apple crop is promising.

The Cresset says a Medicine Lodge merchant has now on hand, in the neighborhood of 100 antelope hides, gathered this winter.

The Legislature did not apportion the Senate into congressional districts, for the reason that congress has not yet fixed the ratio of representation.

The Kansas Legislature has apportioned the State into Senatorial and Legislative districts. We append—

District No. 35—Barbour, Pratt, Stafford, Pawnee, Edwards, Ford, Hodgeman, Ness and unorganized counties, senators 1, representatives 8, population 26,064, valuation \$3,082,095, vote per population 2,800, vote per valuation \$385,255.

The West Las Animas Leader wants a skinning brigade organized. It says that throwing the dead bodies of animals into streams is a crime under the Colorado statute. Considering that a large per cent of the carcasses of cattle are lying near streams and are being carried away by high water, ought not the hides to be removed. In fact all ought to be skinned so that the flesh would readily decay.

The telegraph Friday morning announced that the sale of liquor at military posts is to be prohibited. This dashes the bright dreams of those who have fondly imagined that they could draw on the Fort Leavenworth post sutler for their supply of stimulants. Still, is it imagined for a moment that the tipples which will quickly commence arriving by express will be less intoxicating than commissary whisky?—Times.

An office boy to a Kinsley "root doctor" relates that he was once sent into the woods on the Cimarron to get some of the inner bark of the butternut tree. "Tom," said the doctor, "I want you to scrape this bark downward. It is for a cathartic. Don't scrape it upward, or it will be an emetic. And whatever you do Thomas, don't scrape it both ways. If you do, nobody on earth can tell how it will act."

TREES.

Morris Collar has a large variety of shade ornamental and fruit trees for sale cheap, and we advise all who can to purchase, as the indications are favorable for a wet spring which will give shrubbery a good start.

Open door at the Restaurant stand formerly kept by W. H. Steele. I will give satisfaction to any one that will call. Everything in style; 25 cents a meal. Meals at all hours. Everything filled to order. Fourth door west of post office, Dodge City. M. P. Jonsson, Proprietor.

SEEDS.

All kinds of field and garden seeds are now being received in large quantities; also a full assortment of clover seed at Morris Collar's.

Frank Wilkenson writes from Kansas: I know of five families leaving one township last fall. All of them abandoned their mortgaged farms. All drove mortgaged teams out of the country. Not the slightest trace of them was discovered by the officers sent in pursuit. Never again will they be seen or heard of in Kansas. As ships sail out to sea and disappear, never to be seen or heard of, so do the white-domed wagons roll away from the mortgaged homesteads and disappear on the Western plains.

The above is from a Missouri newspaper, and is a sweet bit of consolation. We presume those "white-domed mortgaged wagons" found an asylum in Missouri. But the above account of mortgaged farms is an exaggeration, if not a lie.